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COUNTRY East Germany

SUBJECT Restrictions on Gasoline and Diesel Fuel
 Allocations

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DATE OF
INFO.

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1. The mineral oil situation in East Germany, as well as in Berlin, has been critical since mid-August 1952. The allocations of gasoline for September 1952 were reduced as much as 50 percent. Drivers of private cars did not get any allocations for September 1952. The situation with regard to Diesel and motor oil is similar. Diesel fuel was in such short supply in East Germany that even the machine leasing stations could not get adequate supplies. The distribution of Diesel fuel has been stopped completely in Berlin since about 20 August 1952. The province was supplied with Diesel fuel during the last eight days. The same applies to the supply of automobile oils. The allocations of motor oil from the production of the VEB Plant in Luetzkendorf have been suspended for weeks. Only buna oil has been allocated. Many owners of automobiles, therefore, changed to the use of buna oil. Motor oil from Luetzkendorf suddenly became available again in early September, and the distribution of buna oil was stopped. This resulted in difficulties for automobile owners, because these two types of oils cannot be mixed.

25X1 2. Some of the fuel allocations for passenger cars and trucks in Verbellin See were reduced 75 percent. [redacted]

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3. Since 1 September 1952, gasoline allocations in the East Sector of Berlin have been considerably reduced for all consumers. The restrictions were particularly noticeable in the supply of Diesel fuel.
4. A Soviet officer, who is assigned to the Soviet Control Commission in Magdeburg, stated that stringent measures for the restriction of civilian gasoline consumption are scheduled in East Germany starting in mid-September 1952. For example, no fuel will be issued for small trucks up to 1 ton, as they consume comparatively large amounts of fuel. Also no fuel will be allocated for passenger cars, unless the license is renewed.¹

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- 2 -

25X1. [] Comment. The present report confirms a previous report. []
25X1 Production failures cannot be responsible for the restrictions on the use
of fuel and lubricants, reported for September 1952, as the East German
production of fuels and lubricants is continuing according to schedule.
25X1 It is believed that fuels and lubricants are being stockpiled to some
extent upon order of the State Planning Commission. []

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